

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 5, 7, 9 and 15.

Kindly amend claims 1, 6 and 8.

1. (Currently amended) A powder composition consisting essentially of (1) at least one component selected from the group consisting of perfumes, and coloring agents and substances having a biological regulatory effect or physiological activity for mammals, (2) 25 to 85 % by weight, based on the total weight of the powder composition, of trehalose and (3) 5 to 60 % by weight, based on the total weight of the powder composition, of water-soluble hemicellulose, the weight ratio of trehalose to water-soluble hemicellulose being in the range of 30:1 to 1:25 wherein the substances having a biological regulatory effect or physiological activity for mammals are selected from the group consisting of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), DHA- and/or EPA-containing fish oil, linolic acid, γ -linolenic acid, α -linolenic acid, evening primrose oil, borage oil, lecithin, octacosanol, rosemary, sage, γ -oryzanol, β -carotene, palm carotene, perilla oil, chitin, chitosan, royal jelly and propolis, oil-soluble vitamins, derivatives of oil-soluble vitamins, water-soluble vitamins and derivatives of water-soluble vitamins.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble hemicellulose is water-soluble hemicellulose derived from a soybean cotyledon.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein the water-soluble hemicellulose is produced by subjecting a soybean cotyledon to heat extraction in an acidic region.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble hemicellulose has an average molecular weight in the range of about 50,000 to about 1,000,000.

5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 5 1 wherein the trehalose is present in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight based on the total weight of the powder composition.

7. (Cancel)

8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 7 1 wherein the water-soluble hemicellulose is present in an amount of 10 to 40% by weight based on the total weight of the powder composition.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of trehalose to water-soluble hemicellulose is in the range of 8:1 to 1:1.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing the powder composition of claim 1 which comprises drying an aqueous emulsion containing at least one component selected from the group consisting of perfumes, coloring agents and functional substances, trehalose and water-soluble hemicellulose.

12. (Original) A drink or food containing the composition of claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic containing the composition of claim 1.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancel)